

THE DE SOTO COUNTY NEWS.

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SUMMARY OF FLORIDA ORANGE CROP

PACKER ESTIMATE 1,500,000 BOXES.

Figures May Be Increased Later, Favorable Conditions Continue—Attention Against Unripe Fruit—Good Appearance Generally of Trees.

The New York Packer prints the following summary of orange crop conditions in Florida:

The Packer has about 2,000 paid subscribers in the State of Florida who are assisted in compiling this paper's orange and grapefruit crop estimates this year. In addition to the information obtained in this way the Packer also has reports from several correspondents, who have made special efforts to get as near the facts as possible. After going over all the correspondence at hand, figuring out probable damage rendered by the freeze of last January, and giving due consideration to the number of new groves coming into bearing, The Packer places its estimate at about 1,500,000 boxes of oranges and grapefruit for the entire State.

While at this writing the outlook is for a million and a half boxes, the reader must take into consideration the possibility of swollen fruit later, which would naturally increase the number of boxes to 1,750,000 and perhaps 2,000,000, should the growing season be visited by a series of rains. The quality of the crop is much better than for several years. A few sections complain of rust, but the majority of the reports show that the bulk of the fruit is generally bright. Coarseness is spoken of in some sections, but such reports nearly always include reference to the fruit as being clean.

The freeze of last January did considerable damage in the northern part of the State which is noticeable in the reports from these points. "Were it not for the increase in the production further south, the yield would not have near reached the million and a half mark. The trees have been particularly healthy this season, and while the white fly has done some damage it has not visited the unhealthfulness of the fruit it did last year. Very few complaints as to this pest are heard among the growers.

"Prices in the groves, for the bare fruit as it hangs on the trees, range from 90c to \$1.25, and up to \$1.50, quality and distance to the loading stations considered. Grapefruit prices range from \$1.50 to \$2.25. The average prices for oranges boxed and delivered to the station range from \$1.50 to \$2. At some outlying points which necessitate a long haul, the outside figure is a little low. Grapefruit is selling up to \$2.50@2.75 delivered to shipping point. A few growers are holding out for higher prices.

"The fruit, both oranges and grapefruit, is running to popular sizes, which, mentioned above, will continue under weather conditions do not effect. The winds have been low also, as a general thing in the heaviest producing sections, so that picked and stored fruit makes up a very small percent of the crop."

Editorially the Packer says: "After making a thorough canvass of the orange and grapefruit growing sections of Florida, The Packer respectfully submits its annual crop guess—1,500,000 boxes. This for the edification of the trade. Other guesses have been made, it is true, some of them as low as 850,000 boxes. We cannot see after going over the information sent by our Florida correspondents—which together with answers to 2,000 letters of inquiry sent our subscribers there, why this low estimate should be made. Such figures do just as much harm as do those issued lately by a well known operator, who says the yield will exceed 2,000,000 boxes. The Packer does not swear by its estimate, and the prognosticator who says he is absolutely correct in this wise has another guess coming.

"The shipping of green fruit is again the main topic of conversation among growers. Several writers to The Packer say 'Warn our people against shipping too soon.' The experience of past seasons should be all the warning needed.

"Not a Florida orange should leave the grove till November 1. A few could be shipped October 15, but this is too soon. Don't kill the sale by shipping green and unmarketable fruit. It doesn't pay. Of course, you'll find this out to your sorrow if you ship, but why not profit by the experience of others?"

"The crop this season is of much better quality than last year and buyers are paying 90c to \$1.25 on the trees according to quality. Prices f. o. b. depend upon the distance from the grove to the shipping point.

PROFITABLE WORK

Is That of Growing Violets, Which Are in Demand in Winter.

Florida Agriculturalist: Our former contributor, East Florida, wrote something of her experience with Violets to Home and Flowers.

Violets may do well in a sunny location through the winter, but we prefer a lath shelter over them in hot weather. And as it is too much work to take it down and put it up each fall and spring, we leave it all the year and they seem to like the partial shade even in winter.

As all violet growers are invited to the symposium, I gladly accept the invitation.

About the first of September I have the ground spaded and fertilized, using well decomposed droppings from the poultry house. Then the ground is marked off into rows about a foot apart and the plants, one in a place, are planted the same distance apart.

In the evening the hose is turned on the bed until it is thoroughly watered. This is repeated every second or third evening during a dry time, as violets luxuriate in moisture.

Occasionally leaf mould is sowed between the rows, thus protecting the violet roots and fertilizing them at the same time. The leaf mould intensifies their color and gives the foliage a deep green appearance. Soap-suds from the weekly wash, soot from the stovepipe and chimney, tea and coffee-grounds, ground bone and liquid manure all add to the size and fragrance of the violet.

In a bed enclosed by wire netting, perhaps the patch was 25x55 feet—five California violets were planted, and they bloomed and grew to their heart's content. They vied with one another in the length of their stems, as though a premium had been placed, on stem growing.

After a time Russian violets were planted in one part of the patch, and they eventually crowded out their neighbors, taking entire possession of the land, thus exemplifying the saying that "possession is nine-tenths of the law." In blossoming time they were a mass of blooms as if a magician's wand had been passed over the bed, and their fragrance was wafted on the air some distance.

The path afforded an abundance of violets from December until Easter, and on one day 1,150 were picked.

Violet culture is a remunerative employment as the flowers always find a ready sale, their beauty and fragrance being appreciated by the tourists.

An abundance of water, rich soil and a sunny location, meet their requirements exactly.

PINE LEVEL

One of the Healthiest Localities in the State—Local News.

Pine Level, September 28.—The weather looks stormy these days and "stand over" planting is the order of the day now.

Tom Mizell will leave this week for Sutherland, where he will enter school.

Mrs. J. H. Howell has returned to her home in Phosphoria.

Peden Bamhill was visiting friends in Upper Pine Level one day this week. Pede has a nice horse and buggy. See? A real estate man of Tampa, Mr. J. J. Head passed through here Wednesday. Mr. Head was delighted with the appearance of the orange groves in this section.

One Mr. Brown, of Lily, lately from Alabama, was prospecting here Tuesday. He was delighted with the outlook and returned to Lily intending to bring his family later in the week and locate in our midst. The community is glad to have this family locate here and invites all prospectors, especially home-seekers, to come and look at our part of DeSoto county before purchasing elsewhere. Pine Level is one of the most prosperous, progressive and healthful localities in DeSoto county.

County Commissioners.

The Board of County Commissioners were in regular monthly session the first three days of this week, and the proceedings of the meeting will be published next week.

The Board received a wire from President Brown of the State Fair at Tampa asking them if his coming here would have any effect in changing their decision as to our county taking part in the Fair, but the commissioners thought as the people had voted not to make an appropriation they would have no right to now make a donation.

Elias Waldron was elected game warden by the commissioners and it is generally believed that he will make a good one. There were several candidates for the position.

NEW PUBLIC LANDS TO BE OPENED

HOMESTEADS ON MARGIN OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE CAN BE TAKEN UP OCT. 15.

Gainesville Sun: Register Robinson and Receiver Chubb of the United States land office have received notification from the general land office that on October 15th of the present year plats of the resurvey of margin of Lake Okeechobee, Florida, in the following townships will be filed in the United States land office at Gainesville, and will be subject to homestead entries.

The plats as furnished by the general land office are as follows: 37 S., 34 E.; 37 S., 36 E.; 38 S., 36 E.; 37 S., 35 E. These lands are among the most fertile and best adapted to the culture of sugar-cane and rice in the United States, and already indications are that there will be a big demand for them, as inquiries have been coming in the land office here for several months.

ORANGE CRATES.

Law Governing the Dimensions and a Penalty for Violation.

The following law governing the dimensions of orange crates was passed at the last session of the legislature, and becomes effective Jan. 1, 1906:

Section 1. That hereafter the legal and standard box or crate for oranges shall measure twelve (12) in width and twelve (12) inches in depth on the inside, making each end or compartment of said box or crate, whenever the same contains a middle partition, twelve (12) inches in length, twelve (12) inches in depth and twelve (12) inches in width. No crate or box intended for sale or shipment of oranges, except of the standard measure herein specified shall be sold or manufactured.

Sec. 2. Every box or crate used for the sale or delivery of oranges shall be of the Florida standard measure as above provided. No person shall use any crate or box for such sale, shipment or delivery, except the same be of such standard measure. Any person violating any of the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100), or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding thirty (30) days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Provided, that nothing herein contained shall prevent the shipment or delivery of oranges for sale in half boxes as herein described: Provided that nothing in this act shall prevent any person shipping oranges in barrels or other crates over standard size.

Sec. 3. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with the provisions of this act be, and the same are, hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect January 1, 1906.

Fall Term of Court.

The fall term of circuit court for the county begins Tuesday, Oct. 24.

Judge B. H. Palmer, of the third circuit will preside, having exchanged with Judge J. B. Wall for the term, the latter holding court in Columbia county.

Florida as Seen by Visitors

Lakeland News: There are very few things calculated to stir up the risibilities of the well-informed Floridian so readily as the "impressions" of visitors and new-comers, as written back home and published in Northern newspapers.

To the Floridian, familiar with conditions in his State, these "impressions" bear the marks of being manufactured from much the same stuff that that dreams are made of. It is not that the statements made are wilfully untrue; but the point of view of the new arrival is often so adjusted that he has a faculty for "seeing" things which are hidden from those whom he naively describes as "the natives."

We reprint in this issue for the instruction of our readers—particularly the natives—a letter dated from Lakeland and published in the Jackson (Michigan) Press of recent date. We commend a careful perusal of this letter by our home people, as they undoubtedly will find some things therein that are new to them. We trust it will make them more careful with cattle, all of which should be taught how to climb a tree with grace and agility, in order to escape the festive alligator, whose favorite amusement is to single out a hefty bovine, and taking his quarry playfully by the ear, lead it to his submarine lair, where he proceeds to make a slight collation of the dainty tid-bit. How often this operation is performed daily by a healthy and industrious alligator is not stated by our correspondent, but the inference is

South Florida, especially the country bordering on and which has been drained from Lakes Okeechobee and Kissimmee, is destined to become the leading sugar producing country of the United States, and probably of the world, in proportion to area. It will be remembered that for years since Lake Kissimmee and its tributaries were drained by the Disston land company, when millions of acres have been cultivated in sugar-cane and rice, the influx to that section has been steady and profitable, and the planters today of that section, as a rule, are prosperous and contented. The opening of this land in the Okeechobee section means the same thing, and it is safe to say that within the next few years Florida will be supplying the markets of the world to a large extent with syrup, sugar and rice.

REUNION AT FAIR

Confederate and Indian War Veterans Will Assemble at Tampa.

Tampa Times: A reunion of the third brigade second regiment Florida Confederate veterans will be one of the most attractive features of the coming State fair.

This noted brigade held its first reunion in this city last year, during the south Florida fair. President T. J. L. Brown interesting the veterans in the movement, and so successful did the reunion prove that the brigade will meet again in the city, and preparations are already under way for making the reunion a great success. Capt. J. M. Henderson stated to a Times representative that the veterans were enthusiastic in regard to the reunion movement, and that Gen. W. L. Jewel, commander of the brigade, would shortly issue an official call for same on dates convenient to the veterans and the fair association.

A reunion of Indian War veterans is also probable, and although the numbers will be small there will certainly be no lack of interest in the movement to bring these old fighters—that is, the few who remain to answer the roll call—together. Capt. Sam Hope, of Anclote, and other veterans are greatly interested in this movement.

Jury List.

The following is the jury list, drawn for the October term of the Circuit Court:

W. H. Hooker, R. P. Wingate, A. C. Spivey, G. M. Collier, J. J. Turner, W. A. Hendry, I. P. Jennings, William Gernigan, H. W. Smith, J. W. Freeman, T. N. Crews, Samp Carson, J. L. Bryan, J. E. Kreider, C. F. Brown, E. N. Brown, G. R. Mauck, T. J. Watkins, Max Wild, E. A. Houston, J. H. McQueen, Sam Boole, J. M. Lanier, G. F. Smith, James Hamilton, C. R. Sumner, R. P. Raulerson, V. O. Fussell, F. M. Alderman, J. W. Addison, Z. E. Murphy, R. C. Clarke, R. B. Gause, B. D. Kinney, Jonathan Skipper, Geo. R. Parker.

INAUGURAL EXERCISES OF SCHOOL

EDUCATIONAL MATTERS

Looked After by Board of Public Instruction at Regular Session.

Arcadia, Fla., Oct. 3, 1905. The Board of Public Instructions met in regular session, members present: Wm. P. Marshall, R. E. Whidden, and T. R. Starke, and Jos. H. Brown secretary. Minutes read and approved.

Scholarships were awarded as follows: To the State Female College, Miss Zackie Crawford; to the State University, Peck Greene.

The following supervisors were recommended and appointed: For Spring Hill school No. 32; H. A. Lanier, for Lily school No. 26, W. A. Hull.

Applications from the Avon Park school No. 3, and Oak Hill school No. 8, for appropriations of \$10 each to establish school libraries were granted, the patrons having met the requirements of the board.

The following request made by the President of the County Teachers association was granted: That the Board will allow the count as taught Friday following Thanksgiving to all teachers of this county: Provided that they hold a two day's session, beginning on said Friday and lasting two days. Provided further, that no teacher who does not attend both days shall be allowed the day as taught.

The citizens of Brownville having given evidence of having published a notification of presentment of a petition requesting an election for the purpose of establishing a Special Tax-School District, said petition was granted after reducing the territory included in petition, and the election ordered to be held at the school house at Brownville on Saturday, November 4th, 1905. Inspectors: D. S. Williams, S. L. Swindall, Sr., and F. M. Alderman, Clerk Samuel Swindall.

Moved that the Board let the printing of financial statements and minutes to the lowest bidder. Bids to be filed before the November meeting. Provided, that the Board reserves the right to reject all bids.

Treasurer's report received and approved.

Accounts were audited and warrants issued from No. 914 to No. 979 from the general fund and from No. 162 to 167 from the special funds.

Board adjourned Wednesday to meet November 7, 1905.

Jos. H. Brown, sec.

Wm. P. Marshall, chairman.

NEW MEAT MARKET

And Grocery Will Be Established by R. E. Whidden—Will Build.

With a view of supplying the increasing demand of the city for good beef R. E. Whidden will erect a two-story building on his lot fronting Payne's blacksmith shop, where under his management will conducted a first-class meat market and grocery.

It is Mr. Whidden's plan to have this building up and business in operation by November 1, if building material can be secured.

Mr. Whidden will select the beef from his own cattle, which he will fatten for the purpose.

The market will be in charge of an experienced meat cutter, and in every way the establishment will be run in accordance with the latest and best methods.

Among other equipments ordered for the market is a large refrigerator, with sufficient capacity to keep a quantity of meat in cold storage some time before selling, therefore improving its condition and assuming tenderness.

From the Orphanage.

Recently Mrs. Bean and I celebrated our 25th marriage anniversary. When we were wed on September 22d, 1896, we had not the remotest idea that nine years would find us in a family of 34 children. But it is even so; and nearly every one is fine looking, too. But "God setteth the solitary in families."

When I began writing this short article it was not to talk about and praise our children, but in view of the largeness of our family we make an urgent appeal to a generous public for help to feed and clothe and educate them. Brethren and friends of the poor, we need your help. We have never felt the need so much as now. To meet the accounts of July, August and September we have had to draw each month on money in hand sent in for the water connection.

During these months not enough money has been sent in to meet the current expenses. Don't let this great work suffer. Let everybody send us something now, and be sure not to forget to send us the earnings of the first Saturday in October. Send to me as below.

B. M. BAXX, Arcadia, Fla.

BEGINS UNDER FAVORABLE AUSPICES!

Interesting Program at Baptist Church. Where Several Instructive Addresses. Are Made and Helpful Spirit Manifested—Good Attendance.

A large and appreciative audience assembled at the Baptist church last Monday morning to witness the inaugural school exercises under the direction of the trustees of the Arcadia high school.

Chairman Jno. L. Jones presided, and the following program was rendered:

Doxology.

Scripture reading, 1st Psalm, by Rev. T. W. White of Garner.

Song by congregation—"Sunshine." Short addresses were then made by Rev. Mr. Keigwin, Rev. W. D. Turr and J. P. DePass.

Inaugural address by Prof. Murphy, principal of the school.

Short talk by S. J. Carlton in behalf of the trustees.

Closing remarks by Chairman Jones.

Then followed an informal reception by the faculty, and the many parents and patrons remained to meet the teachers and welcome them to the social life of Arcadia.

During the exercises Miss Pearl Johnson gracefully presided at the organ.

The emphasis of Mr. Keigwin's address was upon "Heart Culture."

Mr. Turnley spoke to the pupils upon "Country," and proposed that the trustees and faculty arrange for a Christmas benefit in honor of such pupils as shall have no mark of demerit recorded against them.

Dr. DePass, while speaking of important points which should guide the way of every pupil, indulged in reminiscence of his own boyhood days, and reference to trousers patched both fore and aft, brought a hearty laugh from his hearers.

Mr. Carlton gave emphatic endorsement of President Murphy's plea for parental co-operation.

Mr. Jones felicitated all upon the bright prospect for a fine school and the hope of a new building adequate to its needs.

The meeting was a decided success, and the impression created by the principal and faculty was one of great favor, while to crown all the school attendance was very gratifying, giving promise of a profitable term.

FORTNIGHTLY CLUB

An Attractive Program Which Will Be Given Tonight at Southern.

The Fortnightly Literary Club has arranged the following program, which will be given at the meeting tonight at the Southern:

Piano and Cornet Solo—"The Palms"

Miss Fuls and R. B. Childs.

Current Events—J. W. Burton.

Vocal Solo—Mr. Sama.

Reading—Miss Lois Porter.

Vocal Duet—Mrs. Hollingsworth and Mrs. McSwain.

Debate—Resolved, That the privilege of suffrage should be granted to women.

Affirmative—Mrs. E. A. Houston, Dave Scott, Mrs. Neva Child, Dr. D. G. Barnett.

Negative—Mrs. J. D. Williams, Rev. W. D. Turnley, Miss Danatta Pomeroy, E. A. Houston.

Vocal Solo—Mrs. W. H. Seward.

New Real Estate Firm.

A new real estate firm was formed October 2 by Robert W. Campbell becoming a partner of C. m. Johnson who was already engaged in the business.

In another portion of the paper is a new advertisement of the firm, which will be active in its work of exploiting Arcadia real estate and in making public the resources of this section of the country in a manner to attract investors.

Florida's Youngest Hunter.

Fort Myers Press: The youngest hunter in Florida, Master Wallace Towles, four years old son of Capt. Bill Towles, came to the Press office this week, and showed a fine red fox he had killed with his little gun. Wallace missed his game on the first shot, but the second shot did the business and the little fellow said, "Daddy, I gave him a good one that time."

Situation at Pensacola.

Yellow fever conditions at Pensacola are practically unchanged, except that a little improvement is shown in decrease of death rate.

One death this week was that of Mr. Boulter, who declared yellow fever did not exist in the city, and who ridiculed the work of the health authorities.

Thus far there have been 125 cases with 32 deaths.